ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A collaborative file access management system. The system can include one or more secure, collaborative files, each secure, collaborative file including a security trailer specifying at least one of an access policy and associated digital rights. The

5   system also can include a user-layer file management application configured to limit access to the secure, collaborative file based upon the access policy. Finally, the system can include a kernel-layer file security service configured both to detect kernel-level requests to access the secure, collaborative files, and also, responsive to the detected kernel-level requests, to invoke the file management application.